



The Southern Advocate

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Oklahoma Division

Sons of Confederate Veterans

<http://oklahomascv.org/>



"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish." (Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906)

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Spring Quarter

April-June 2018

SCV National Reunion and Convention

Commander's Comments

Jim Orebaugh, Division Commander

As I begin my term as Division Commander, I want to thank the outgoing administration for keeping the Division afloat during these tumultuous times. They volunteered and/or were elected at a time when the condemnation against all things Confederate was ramping up following the Charleston, South Carolina, church shooting in June 2015. To their credit, Oklahoma has survived with minimal damage to its Confederate heritage.

Also, my thanks to all Camps that sent delegates to the Oklahoma Division Convention and Reunion this year. The tremendous turnout that we had is proof that proud men from all parts of Oklahoma still care about our Confederate ancestors and how we honor them here in the great Southern state.

The Confederacy, the SCV, UDC, Confederate monuments, flags and history itself have been under constant attack to the point that "memory" has been replaced with propaganda, half-truths, outright lies and an effort to destroy the American past.

I respectfully remind you that we have the blood of our Confederate soldier ancestors flowing in our own veins. Their "unconquerable" spirit is as close as the sound of the beating of our own hearts. We can preserve and protect the memory of these men by simply obeying "the Charge".

Deo Vindice!

SCV National Reunion

Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp No. 33, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, will host the 2018 Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, July 18-21. The Reunion will be held at the Franklin Cool Springs Marriott, 700 Cool Springs Road, Franklin, Tennessee. Information about registration and hotel reservations may be found at <http://www.scv.org/new/reunion2018/>.



Jim Orebaugh, Oklahoma Division Commander, 2018-20, with Alvin Johnson, Adjutant of Camp Capt. Benjamin F. Smallwood of Coalgate, who at age eighty-eight is believed to be the oldest member of the Oklahoma Division.

Report of the Division Convention

Ken Cook, Division Past-Commander

The Oklahoma Division held its annual Convention and Reunion at Shawnee on April 29. Seventeen of the Division's nineteen camps were represented. A little more than forty division compatriots and guests attended. SCV National Lt. Commander, Paul Gramling, was our special guest. The invocation was given by the Reverend Doctor Todd Cathey, Commander of Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh of Tulsa. After the invocation, Commander Allen Harrison of the Convention's host camp, Col. Tandy Walker, gave a short welcome address. Immediately afterward, Color Sergeant Steve Stricklin led the Division Color guard in posting the colors, followed by his recitation of the salute to the Confederate Flag and the Charge read by Commander Robert Carrol of Camp BG Stand Watie (Ardmore).

After the opening ceremonies, the Convention got down to business. Adjutant Terry Pierce called the roll of camps and announced a quorum. He was unable to read the minutes of the last Convention because of problems with his computer. Lt. Commander Rex Cash presented the Membership Report. The Division had 456 members in nineteen camps at the time of the Convention. Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore) is the largest camp with fifty-three members. Camp Col. Tandy Walker (Shawnee) had the largest percentage membership increase over the past year with seventy per cent. Chief of Heritage Operations, Bryce Hill, reported on current heritage issues include the renaming of three schools in Oklahoma City and the pending name change vote of Robert E. Lee Elementary School in Tulsa. Adjutant Terry Pierce, Chairman of the Rose Hill Monument Committee, reported that the Division will not be able to purchase the plot on which the monument sets because it is on cemetery common ground, not burial plots. Commander Cook briefly commented that the Division is in the process of clarifying the ownership and right to retrieve the monument in the future if for some reason it would no longer be allowed in the cemetery. Commander Cook gave the Graves Registration Report on behalf of Graves Registrar Bernie Cooper, who was unable to attend the Convention. Compatriot Jim Herndon, Chairman of the Oklahoma Guardian Program Committee, gave a short presentation on the Guardian Program. No Guardian Certificates were presented this year. Commander Cook gave a short presentation on the state of the Division. The most relevant item was the slowdown of net membership growth during the past year.

After all of the reports were given, the Convention took up the eleven constitutional amendments that were to be presented. Adjutant Larry Logan of Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain presented two proposed amendments, both of which failed. Commander Allen Harrison of Camp Col. Tandy Walker presented the other nine proposed amendments. All were approved. The Convention then recessed for lunch catered by a local restaurant.

When the convention reconvened, Commander Harrison gave a presentation on recruiting and retention. National Lt. Commander Gramling then gave the Convention keynote ad-

dress. After his address, Commander Cook presented him with a Division Certificate of Appreciation. That was followed by Commander Todd Cathey's presentation entitled "To Die Like Men: Portraits of Confederate Valor from Hood's 1864 Tennessee Campaign". Harold Tydings Award Committee Chairman Larry Logan and member, Allen Harrison, presented the 2018 Harold Tydings Award to Division Past-Commander Les Tucker in recognition of his many years of service to the Oklahoma Division.

The last item of business was the announcement of the election results for Division Commander and Lt. Commander and Brigade Commanders. Adjutant Pierce announced the results of the elections, and Lt. Commander Gramling administered the oath of office to all except the new Lt. Commander, who was unable to attend the Convention. He will be sworn in at a later date. The names of the 2018-20 Division and Brigade officers, as well as Division staff officers are on Page 4.

The Convention was closed by singing "Dixie" led by Color Sergeant Stricklin, the retirement of the colors and Commander Cathey's benediction. The convention was adjourned, and those members still in attendance gathered for the traditional group photograph.

Altogether it was a good Convention. We are especially pleased with the high Camp representation. Except for the lackluster net membership growth, the Division had a good year. We had a very good Confederate Flag Day commemoration, and several Camps held Confederate Memorial Day events. Also, a number of the Camps participated in recruiting events, primarily gun shows. The Division remains in good condition. We are looking forward to continued growth and further improvement during the 2018-19 year.



Oklahoma Division Financial Statement

Business Year 2017-18

Bank Balance as of April 22, 2017		6710.36
Income		
Dues	2173.00	
Dues Overage	32.50	
Convention Lunch (2017)	<u>460.00</u>	
Total Revenue	2665.50	2665.50
Operating Expenses		
Website	315.00	
Flag Rally	120.00	
Miscellaneous	20.00	
Convention Hall Rental	250.00	
Convention Lunch (2017)	<u>452.27</u>	
Total Operating Expenses		-1157.27
Transfer to Project Fund		<u>-1500.00</u>
Operating Fund Balance		
Project Fund		
Project fund Balance (April 22, 2017)	4500.00	
Sealer for Rose Hill Monument	-99.99	-99.99
Transfer from Operating Fund	<u>1500.00</u>	
Project Fund Balance	5900.01	
Bank Balance as of April 26, 2018		7977.18
Guardian Funds - Held in Trust		<u>-190.00</u>
Oklahoma Division Funds Balance		<u>7787.18</u>



Oklahoma Division Budget Business Year – 2018-19

Revenue:

(Dues based on 456 members @\$5 per member): \$2280.00

Expenses:

Website	\$315
Convention room rent	250
Convention refreshments	50
Flag Day rally	150
New camp development	250
Awards	60
Printing, postage and supplies	50
Discretionary	<u>500</u>

Total Expenses	\$	<u>1625.00</u>
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Budget Surplus: \$ 655.00

Division Officers and Staff 2018 – 2020

Division Commander	James L. Orebaugh
Lt. Commander	Virgil Chain
Indian Nations Red River Brigade Cmdr.	Frank Gilbert
Fort Washita Brigade Cmdr.	Steve Ward
Col. Roger Quarles Mills Brigade Cmdr.	Terry Pierce
Cherokee Brigade Cmdr.	Steve Sanders
Adjutant	Steve Ward
Judge Advocate/	
Chief of Heritage Operations	Bryce Hill
Chaplain	Bob Pattison
Newsletter Editor	Ken Cook
Genealogist	Allen Harrison
Chief Recruiting Officer	Charles Wilson
Historian	Bently Couch
Information Technology Officer*	Steve Ward
Public Relations Officer*	Jim Orebaugh
Special Projects Officer*	Mason Page
Graves Registration Officer	Bernie Cooper
Quartermaster	- vacant -
Color Sergeant	Steve Stricklan

* Newly created positions – Commander Orebaugh will assume the responsibilities of Division media spokesman as part of his public relations duties.

National Dues

The National SCV fiscal and business years end on July 31. Except for life members, National dues are due and payable on or before August 31. Dues for annual members are \$30.

Dues are due at National on or before August 31. Camp commanders should immediately begin the process of dues renewals, if you haven't already done so.

Camp commanders or adjutants, whoever has that responsibility in your camp, should send your first dues notices now. This is typically done by email, but those members without email will need to be called or sent a letter. Any member's dues not received at National by August 31, will require a \$5 reinstatement fee.



Larry Logan, Oklahoma Division Past-Commander and current Adjutant of Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore, at the grave of Confederate Secretary of State, Judah P. Benjamin, in Paris. Compatriot Logan placed the Confederate flag on the grave.

Gravestone Inscription

Judah Philip Benjamin Born St. Thomas West Indies Aug 6 1811
Died in Paris May 6 1884
United States Senator from Louisiana
Attorney General Secretary of War and
Secretary of State Confederate States
of America Queens Counsel London

Calendar of Events

July 4 – Independence Day
July 18-21 – SCV National Reunion – Franklin, TN
Sept. 8 – DEC Summer Meeting – McCloud

Camp News and Activities

On Saturday, April 14, **Camp Captain Benjamin F. Smallwood** (Coalgate) held its monthly meeting at Coal County Library. Several guests were present, including Division Commander Ken Cook, Division Past-Commanders Allen Harrison and Larry Logan, Ft. Washita Brigade Commander Jerry Patrick and Compatriots Patrick Self and Steve Ward, respectively Lt. Commander and Adjutant of Camp Captain James J. McAlester. Also present was Mr. Skyler Robinson, Assistant Director of the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department and Cemetery Restoration Coordinator.



Mr. Robinson speaking about his involvement with efforts at locating, identifying and restoring graves within the historic Choctaw Nation

Division Past-Commander Larry Logan was the featured speaker. His topic was the reasons for the War of Southern Independence.



Past-Commander Logan giving his address

After the meeting adjourned, Camp Adjutant Alvin Johnson treated the attendees to lunch at the downtown Subway. On Friday, the day before, Adjutant Johnson celebrated his eighty-eighth birthday.

Commander Charley Wilson of **Camp Pvt. Drury Warren** (Ponca City) had a table at a gun show at Enid on Saturday, April 14. The show had a larger than expected turnout. Several attendees expressed interest in the SCV. He got about fifteen names of men to research their lineage for determination of Confederate ancestry. So far, Confederate ancestry has been determined for one of the prospects, and he will be joining the SCV.

One of the Camp's newest members, Kurt McGinley of Wakita, came by the SCV table, and Commander Wilson presented him with his SCV Membership Certificate.



Compatriot Kurt McGinley displaying his SCV Membership Certificate

Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore) held its monthly meeting on April 16 at the Moore Public Library. At the meeting, Commander Rocky Waddell and Lt. Commander Jimmy Carter accepted a Confederate field officer's sword given to the Camp by Compatriot Rick Brand. The sword was made in Belgium in 1854 and was transported through the blockade into the Confederacy, where it was worn by a field officer.



Commander Waddell (L.) Rick Brand and Lt. Commander Carter

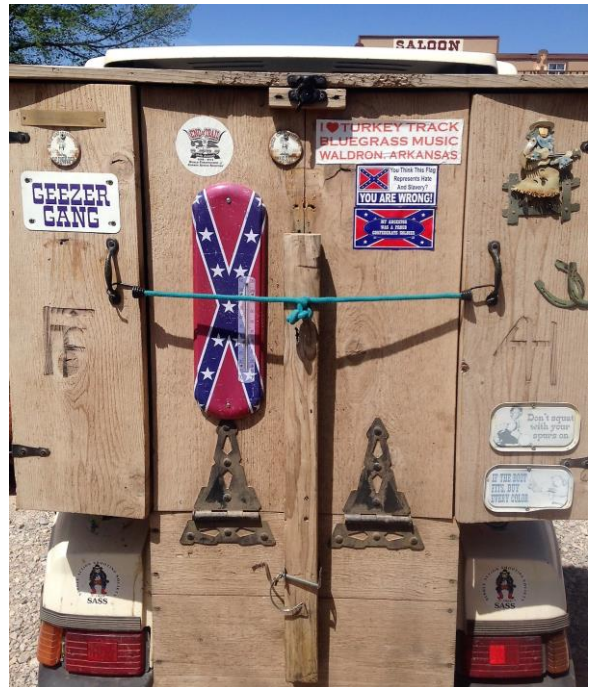
Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore) had a recruiting team at the Southwest Regionals of the Single Action Shooters Society held at the Oklahoma City Gun Club on April 19-20.



Camp Adjutant, Larry Logan, and Camp members, Ed Granger, with wife, Becky, and L. D. Ferguson



Camp Commander, Rocky Waddell, (center) with prospects Philip Haynie (L) and Ron Loflin in front of the recruiting tent



Camp Compatriot Clyde Green's gun cart



Other Camp McCurtain members participating in the event were Larry Windsor, Clyde Green and Gary Brewster. The Camp got four prospects, including one solid lead, who wants to attend the next Camp meeting. The Camp was well received at the event, which included shooters from several surrounding states as well as many Northern states. Altogether, everyone had an enjoyable time.

Camp Capt. James J. McAlester (McAlester) held its April meeting on the 21st. Lt. Commander Patrick Self stood in for Commander Bently Couch, whose wife had passed away a week earlier. In addition to routine business, the members discussed the proposed constitutional amendments to be presented at the Division Convention.



Camp Adjutant Steve Ward and Lt. Commander Patrick Self at the Coalgate Camp meeting on April 14

books you can trust were written before 1940". This article was taken from *Understanding the War Between the States, a Supplemental Booklet by Sixteen Writers that Enables a More Complete and Truthful Study of American History*. The book is available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



During April and May Compatriot Robert Weaver of **Camp Captain Clem Vann Rogers** (Oklahoma City) presented the SCV's H. L. Hunley Award to Oklahoma City area outstanding JROTC cadets.



Camp members Ben McIntosh, Steve Ward and Patrick Self at the Oklahoma Division Convention

At the April meeting of **Camp Col. Tandy Walker** (Shawnee) on the 26th, Commander Allen Harrison presented an SCV Membership Certificate to John M. Yater, III under the name of his ancestor Private Anderson A. N. Gray, who served in the 22nd Texas Infantry, Rabb's Brigade.

Commander Harrison gave the program based on an article by Dr. Clyde N. Wilson, entitled "How and Why to Study History". He related how our Southern culture is being attacked with false history about the WBTS. He stated, "The only history



On April 24, Compatriot Weaver presented the Hunley Award to Cadet SMSGT Caillou Fernandez of Choctaw High School – Choctaw.





On May 4, Compatriot Weaver presented the Hunley Award to Air Force JROTC Cadet, TSGT Carmen Chapa of Putnam City HS – Oklahoma City. Ms. Chapa is not wearing her JROTC uniform because the cadets had already turned in their uniforms, and she had just come from a cancer prevention fun run day.



On May 8, Compatriot Weaver presently the Hunley Award to Navy JROTC Cadet, Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronnie Weeks of Capital Hill High School – Oklahoma City



At the May 15th meeting of **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain** (Moore), Lt. Commander Jimmy Carter presented new member, Dillion McDaniel, with his SCV Membership Certificate.



Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore) has adopted Naples Cemetery in Grady County as an ongoing project. Each year Camp members mow and clean the cemetery as needed. On May 18, they completed a mowing and placed Confederate flags on the graves of Confederate soldiers buried there.





Memorial in Naples Cemetery to Confederate soldier, George W. Peel, who is buried in a mass grave at Keatchie, Louisiana, where he was killed in action in 1864



Grave of PVT Isham J. H. Clark, 24th Mississippi Infantry

Camp Indian Nations (Poteau) honored it's fallen in conjunction with local and regional Mechanized Cavalry compatriots gathered in Big Cedar, Oklahoma, at Gibby's Biker Camp on May 11-12. Highlights included great food, fellowship and Mechanized Cavalry business. But, the most reverent part of the gathering was the presentation of an SCV Resolution honoring fallen camp member Robert Matthews to his widow, Brenda. The presentation was read and presented by Camp Indian Nations Lieutenant Commander Terry Cumber. A special thanks to Lonnie (Gibby) Gibson and his family who operate the beautiful campground in Big Cedar and to Steve and Sheila McDuffie for donating the food and spending hours preparing and smoking the delicious ribs



On Saturday, May 19, **Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh** (Tulsa) held its annual Confederate Memorial Day Service at the Camp's Monument to Confederate Soldiers of Indian Territory in Tulsa's Rose Hill Memorial Park Cemetery.



Camp Commander, Todd Cathey, addressing the attendees

On May 24, **Camp Col. Tandy Walker** (Shawnee) held its monthly meeting. Commander Allen Harrison reported on the Division Convention. Special guest, Division Commander Jim Orebaugh, presented the program: "Music of the Confederacy". He played excerpts from many of the following songs and gave the history and background of each song. There were three categories of songs: Anthems: "Dixie" and Bonnie Blue Flag" – the Home Front: "All Quiet Along the Potomac", "Somebodies Darling", "Johnnie Has Gone for a Soldier" and "Sad Weeping and Lonely" – at the Front: "Lorena", "Goober Peas", "Yellow Rose of Texas" and "Rose of Alabamy". The finale was "I am a Good Old Rebel".



Division Commander Orebaugh presenting his program

On May 28, **Camp BG Stand Watie** (Ardmore) hosted its annual Confederate Memorial Day commemoration in the Confederate Section of Rose Hill Cemetery in Ardmore. Every camp of the Indian Nations-Red River Brigade was represented. The Oklahoma Division Color Guard also participated in the commemoration.



Camp Judge Advocate, Bryce Hill, presenting his program on the distortions perpetrated by some historians, the National Park Service and Hollywood regarding Southern secession and the War for Southern Independence



Heritage News & Events

Legislation in Response to Memphis' Confederate Statue Removal Signed by Governor Haslam

Joel Ebert, USA TODAY NETWORK – Tennessee
May 22, 2018

Legislation seeking to bolster the state's Heritage Protection Act in response to moves in Memphis last year has been signed into law by Gov. Bill Haslam. The Heritage Protection Act requires a waiver from the Tennessee Historical Commission before removing statues, monuments and historical markers. The latest proposal, which prohibits the sale or transfer of a memorial or public property containing a statue without first obtaining a waiver from the state Historical Commission, came in response to decisions made by public officials in Memphis last year.

After previously being denied a waiver from the state commission to remove statues of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Memphis officials sold two public parks in December to a nonprofit, which removed the statues. Last week, a judge in Davidson County determined city officials did not violate the law.

This year's legislation includes a provision that would ban any public entity that violates the law from receiving grants administered by the Historical Commission and the state Department of Economic and Community Development for five years. The new law also allows “any entity, group or individual” with a “real interest in a memorial” to seek an injunction in Davidson County court if they believe a public entity has violated the law. The court could issue a restraining order or an injunction to preserve the memorial in question.

The legislature passed the measure in the final days of the session, just days after removing \$250,000 from the state budget aiming to help Memphis’ bicentennial celebration. Haslam signed the measure on Monday. It became immediately effective upon his signature.

Sons of Confederate Veterans to Appeal Memphis Statue Ruling

Maya Smith – *Memphis Flyer News Blog*

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is appealing a ruling by the Davidson County Chancery Court that said Memphis acted legally in removing Confederate monuments.

Lee Millar with the Sons of Confederate Veterans Forrest Camp announced Thursday that the group, along with the family of Nathan Bedford Forrest, will be filing an appeal to the Tennessee Court of Appeals in response to Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle’s ruling that came last week.

Hobbs ruled that Memphis acted legally in its December sale of the two Downtown parks to the nonprofit Memphis



Oklahoma Division Lt. Commander, Virgil Chain, and his daughter, Nicky, posing at the Oklahoma Division's Confederate monument in Rose Hill Cemetery. In the photo on the preceding page, Nicky is “standing guard” at the memorial brick of her Confederate ancestor, PVT W. D. Chain. She is a Friend of the Confederacy in **Camp PVT W. D. Chain** (Cooperton).

On Memorial Day, several members of **Camp PVT Drury Warren** (Ponca City) placed Confederate flags on graves in several cemeteries in north-central Oklahoma. Craig Robertson placed flags on Confederate graves in Enid Cemetery at Enid. Ray Simmons covered Kay and Grant counties and assisted Cherokee Brigade Commander Steve Sanders with placing flags in Pawhuska Cemetery. Others placed flags elsewhere.



The grave of Sgt. Napoleon B. Crump, Co. D, Stirman's Arkansas Cavalry in Enid Cemetery.

Greenspace, who subsequently removed three Confederate monuments from the parks.

Lyle's ruling was based on the 2016 version of the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act, which she said doesn't prohibit the sale of parks containing monuments. "The conveyance was legal and valid."

In a statement, Millar said: "The Forrest Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Forrest Family have filed a Notice of Appeal in Chancery Court (Davidson County/Nashville) in regard to our lawsuit against the City of Memphis and Memphis Greenspace concerning the illegal removal of the three Confederate statues in Memphis. The injunction against the City and Greenspace remains in force which prohibits either/both of them from moving, removing, selling or otherwise disposing of the statues and further requires that they protect, preserve, and maintain those statues during this legal process. We have no further comment on these legal actions at this time."

Attacking Confederate Monuments Echoes the Prejudice It Condemns

Edwin M. Yoder, Jr. — *News & Observer* — Raleigh, NC

On a recent evening I squandered half an hour on a public television program about Confederate statues in New Orleans. It was a gross waste of time. It began and ended with the usual incivilities in which zealous advocates shouted at one another with little or no informed reference to history or art.

More careful consideration is urgently needed. The North Carolina Historical Commission is weighing the fate of Confederate monuments on the state capitol grounds. And, there is the continuing enmity to "Silent Sam" on the UNC campus. As I write, it has been splashed with red ink by a person identified as a grad student in the university history department.

Selective assault on the markers of the past is an assault on the memories they symbolize. It is a form of iconoclasm — image-smashing — and it had a bad name when I studied history. Seventeenth century English Puritans destroyed beautiful stained-glass windows and other irreplaceable works of sacred art in ancient churches — in the name of anti-"popery." There was similar Reformation vandalism in Luther's Wittenberg, before Luther himself reminded the zealots that even Catholic aesthetics had its proper place.

My own generation came of age in the 1950s amid warfare in which civilization and its values were often at stake. We had the good fortune to be inoculated against attacks on historical memory by the journalism of George Orwell. He had written a celebrated dystopian novel "1984," and his journalism reinforced the inventive terms in the novel — the "vaporization" of unfashionable political figures, who were banished into a realm of the forgotten which Orwell dubbed "the memory hole."

As a student of historic memory, I understood that its keynote is inclusiveness, the bad and disfavored with the good, without which history becomes distorted and unbalanced. I confess to feeling a certain sympathy with Confederate symbols, for ancestral reasons. But I would defend them as firmly if

the structures under attack memorialized, say, William Tecumseh Sherman, the Union general whose march through Georgia in the last year of the Civil War anticipated later forms of "strategic" warfare on civilian populations. In some quarters Sherman is today condemned as a proto-war criminal. He himself said, "war is cruelty; you cannot refine it." But that truth is not accepted by detractors who associate him with "Bomber Harris," the devastator of German cities in World War II and the US Strategic Air Command over Japan.

Eventually the double-think (another Orwell term) that animates the present assault on Confederate monuments will be as much deplored as is Puritan iconoclasm in the holy wars upon "popish" stained glass in the Reformation era. Puritanical censure is not conducive to the grasp of historical perspective. Orwell understood the evils of doctoring memory to fit fashion. Nazism needs no elaboration. Stalin's Soviet Union likewise had approved scientists — Lysenko in genetics, Pavlov in psychology — whose "science" emphasized the conditioning of human minds and spirits to fit ideology.

Even the American Historical Association has recently chimed in with a statement justifying the attack on Confederate monuments on grounds that these works were "part and parcel of ... legally mandated segregation and widespread disenfranchisement ... to intimidate African Americans politically and isolate them from the mainstream of public life."

In fact, as historians of the civil rights movement of the Sixties know, the association of inanimate monuments with racism and segregation is almost entirely in the minds of those who choose to believe it. Those who lived through, and approved, that beneficial phase of American history would be hard pressed to think of a single instance when a monument got in the way of the overdue defeat of Jim Crow. The premier professional organization of American historians should correct, not parrot, the puerile cant of white-collar vandals who deface public monuments.

Do I equate those who vandalize Silent Sam and other Confederate monuments with the totalitarian assailants of human nature? Of course not. That would be a distortion as grotesque as the association of memorials with the evils of racism. But, old or young, they are fellow travelers in forms of historical prejudice whose dangers and implications they do not understand. Their elders in the history departments and law schools should not be enablers.

Contributing columnist Edwin M. Yoder Jr. of Chapel Hill is a former editor and columnist in Washington.

Cemetery's Overlooked Monument to Confederate POWs Becomes Center of Controversy

Courtney Gousman — WGNV - Chicago

CHICAGO — Chicago police saturated Oak Woods cemetery Sunday morning (April 22), hoping to prevent a major clash as a group of protesters demanded the removal of a Confederate

monument, while an opposing group held a memorial for fallen Confederate soldiers.

Inside the cemetery, a monument many didn't even know existed now sits at the center of controversy. The 30-foot granite tower, topped with a statue, is dedicated to the 6,000 Confederate soldiers who fought in the Civil War and died at Camp Douglas as prisoners of war.

A group called the "Sons of Confederate Veterans" came to honor those buried there long ago on Sunday. "I think if you love the fact that you're free to be here today, then you have to respect the fact that there are dead who served for us to be here today," said Jenna Berstein, who came to Chicago from Tampa to show support for the monument.

Also, at the cemetery, the group "Smash White Supremacy Chicago" stood outside the gates, protesting the group inside. "We're here to try to shed light on the side of history we want to remember," group member Savannah Webb said. The group suggests highlighting abolitionist, journalist and Chicago resident Ida B. Wells, who is buried there along with black history-makers like Harold Washington and Jesse Owens. "She covered lynching before it was really kosher rather to do that and really fought to have lynching viewed as a hate crime and not a way to establish justice in the south," said protestor Zebulon Hurst.

The protestors called for the monument dedicated to Confederate soldiers to be taken down, and a monument to Wells erected instead. The protestors also visited Wells' grave site. "Of course, we feel there should be a grave marker to mark these dead soldiers, but for there to be a 50-foot-tall statue that you can see from outside the cemetery on Emmett Till Road, we don't think that's right," Webb said.

Plenty of Chicago police were on hand in the event of a clash between the two groups, but all was peaceful. The two groups with differing opinions co-existed inside the cemetery Sunday. "I think it's a real glimpse into the microcosm of American politics. The fact that white supremacy and black independence exist in the same land," Hurst said. "She was a woman of her own right. With her own causes. Her own beliefs and did right by what she did in her history, just like these men believed in what they did. There's no conflict there. This is history," said Greg Swiston, attending the Confederate service.

A representative from Veterans Affairs attended Sunday's memorial service and issued a statement saying, in part: "VA's national cemetery administration has a long record of balancing history with respecting fallen service members and those who come to honor them."

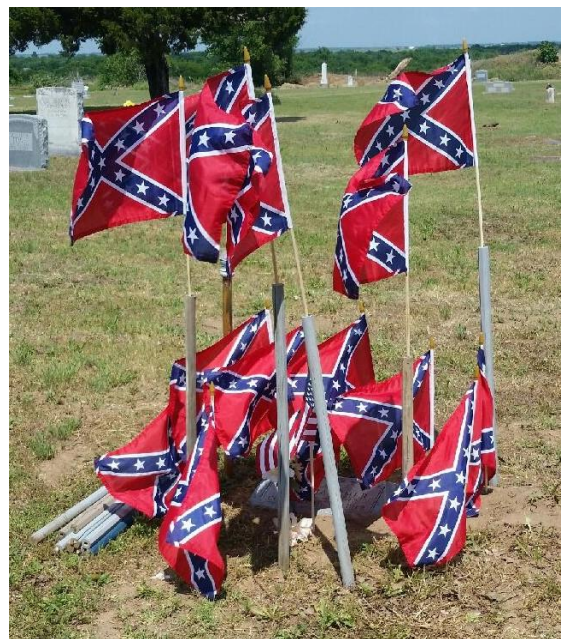
Confederate Flags Improperly Removed from Soldiers' Graves

In recognition of Confederate Memorial Day, members of **Camp PVT William Price** (Ringling) placed flags on Confederate graves in Cornish Cemetery at Cornish in Jefferson County. The flags were improperly removed by a person purporting to be the cemetery caretaker. Camp Commander Brandon

Thompson made the following report to Division Commander Orebaugh.

"This is the result of what happened from us putting flags out at the Cornish Cemetery on the Confederate graves. Jimmy Morris, (self-appointed caretaker), removed the Confederate flags from all the graves that Bobby Perkins had placed on the Confederate soldiers' graves and placed them on the only grave that said Confederate soldier because he had a small brick stone made that said Confederate soldier. The result was Jimmy Morris removing our flags breaking them and shoving them and throwing them on the ground and breaking them off their holders. We consider this desecration, but it also could be a hate crime. This man had no respect and no authority to touch or remove these poor soldiers' flags".

Commander Orebaugh referred the matter to the Division Chief of Heritage Operations to determine what course of action, if any, that the Division might be able to take in response to this egregious act.



Editorial

Ken Cook, Editor

The foregoing Heritage News informs us that we still have a lot of work to do. The situation in Memphis is still not settled as the SCV will appeal the trial court's ruling. Although, we obviously have not read the trial transcript, the judge seems to have based her ruling on the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act without regard as to whether the City of Memphis followed the City Charter in disposing of the property. It's obvious the entire exercise was a conspiracy to sell the property for a nominal price with the understanding the new owner would remove the Forrest statue. The news report regarding the Tennessee legislature's latest amendments to the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act does not specify whether or not the law is retroactive.

If not, it doesn't seem that it will impact the Memphis situation.

The author of the Chicago incident put quotation marks around Sons of Confederate Veterans as if she had never heard of us, or that maybe we are some kind of cult. Or, maybe she doesn't understand punctuation rules. In any case this seems to be shaping up as another potential monument removal, and we cannot expect many allies in Chicago.

Mr. Yoder's article is on the mark, but we cannot expect our enemies to consider his arguments as they continue their attacks on Confederate monuments.

Closer to home, the Tulsa School Board recently voted to change the name of Robert E. Lee Elementary School to Lee School. This may sound like a partial victory, but it may be unraveling. Two Board members who voted for the change seem to be having "attacks of conscious". One has proclaimed that she is ashamed of her vote. She apparently has been unable to explain to her friends and associates the rationale for her vote and thus regrets it. The school is preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary later this year. Accordingly, time and money have been expended. While nothing was reported in this regard, we suspect that the anniversary celebration had something to do with the vote. We further suspect that once the anniversary has come and gone, the issue will come before the School Board for reconsideration. When, not if, it does, we can expect that the school will have an entirely new name with no association whatever to General Lee. Also, we are still plagued by ignorant, petty incidents such as occurred at Cornish Cemetery.

We can expect continued attacks on our heritage symbols on all fronts. Elected officials simply cannot stand up to leftist activists or the pressure from their guilt-ridden peers, who are terrified of being called, or even suspected of being, a racist. We can only hope that whoever is elected the next National SCV Commander will come up with proactive actions to help slow down this process. Although they are important to show our enemies that we are still here, raising large Confederate flags around the South won't solve the problem. Surely, we can be more proactive than this.



Recruiting Report

Charley Wilson – Division Chief Recruiting Officer

As the new Division Recruiter for Oklahoma, I'm going to assist members and Camps to emphasize more active recruiting efforts to increase the membership numbers in the local Camps. There are many men throughout Oklahoma (and beyond) with Confederate ancestry who ought to be members of the SCV to learn the truths of the Confederate veterans and the South, to stand for those truths so that more folks in America will know the truths. Call it monument preservation or whatever, we need to get the show on the road for our side – that's the Confederate side which stood for the Founders of this country.

At the Oklahoma Division Convention on April 28, 2018, it was reported that the total membership is 456 paid-up members. Since there are thousands of Confederate descendants in Oklahoma who are eligible to join the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), we should increase our total Oklahoma membership from 456 to at least 570 members. That's a twenty-five per cent increase.

Each of us knows how to do something or has an idea about bringing in new members. We can speak to people that we know or meet, or we can have another member talk to them. Gun shows are a great place to see a lot of men in a short amount of time. Most men don't know their family lineage beyond two or three generations, nor do they know if they have a Confederate ancestor. We can assist with genealogical research to determine Confederate ancestry in their line.

Every Camp should consider appointing or electing a Camp Recruiter. That way, with someone in charge of recruiting, there'll be more accomplished for the Camp and the SCV. Otherwise, the Camp Commander or Camp Adjutant may want to consider the task. Either way, I'm available to help anyone in their recruiting efforts.

For the next Newsletter, I plan to report on the progress in Oklahoma. Let me know if I can assist you or your Camp in any way to recruit new members. Call me anytime at 620-253-5513. Our Confederate ancestors were right. Let's preserve the historic Sons of Confederate Veterans.

John Hunt Morgan's Raids and Daring Prison Escape

Bently Couch – Division Historian



In his first Kentucky raid, John Hunt Morgan left Knoxville, Tennessee on July 4, 1862, with almost 900 men. In three weeks they swept through Kentucky, deep in the rear of the Union army. Morgan captured 1,200 Federal soldiers, whom he paroled, acquired several hundred horses, and destroyed massive quantities of supplies. He unnerved Kentucky's Union military government.

In June of 1863 Morgan hoped to divert Union troops and resources from the operations around Vicksburg and Gettysburg. His commanding general, Braxton Bragg, granted him permission to raid into Kentucky to disrupt Union supply lines. On June 11, Morgan set off on the campaign that would be-

come known as "Morgan's Raid." Against orders from General Braxton Bragg, Morgan took it upon himself to cross the Ohio River on July 13, 1863, and raided across southern Indiana and Ohio.



The local militia barricaded every town and blocked every road. This resulted in several skirmishes in which Morgan captured and paroled six thousand Union men. To mislead the Federals, Morgan had his telegrapher, George Ellsworth, tap telegraph lines and, pretending to be a Union telegrapher. He sent several messages giving different headings for the raiders and false reports of the size of Morgan's force.

After forty-six days of hard riding, they had traveled more than a thousand miles. The raid ended on July 26, 1863, at Salineville, Ohio. Most of Morgan's men captured that day spent the rest of the war in the infamous Camp Douglas Prisoner of War camp in Chicago, which had a very high death rate.

Instead of being treated as prisoners of war, Morgan and the Confederate officers were taken to the Ohio State Penitentiary where they were clean shaven, an insult to men in a time when whiskers were considered a sign of manhood. Morgan was confined to a tiny cell, only forty-two inches by eighty-four inches, barely room for a cot. He was not meant for such a life. He was a bold and dashing cavalier, destined for life on horseback, not for this cramped hole in the Ohio State Penitentiary.

As soon as they could, Morgan and his officers began planning an escape. One of Morgan's men observed that no dampness accumulated on the floor of his cell and correctly guessed that an airshaft must be below his floor. Knives were taken from the prison mess hall to use for digging. On November 4, 1863, the dig began. At first, digging went on so slowly that disposing of the debris was no problem. As they began to make some headway with their excavation, they disposed of the broken concrete pieces in a mattress.

They dug down steadily, through six inches of concrete, a five-inch bed of lime mortar, and three layers of brick. On the fourth day of digging, they broke through to the airshaft, six feet wide and four feet tall. Then, they found they would have to dig through the 5-foot thick foundation of the building, tunnel twelve feet to the wall around the prison, and then dig four

feet to the surface of the ground. Then, they would have to scale the wall with a rope braided from strips of bedding and

drop down the far side of the wall. To make matters even more complicated, there was only one entrance to the airshaft. To allow others a chance to escape, the concrete in their cell floors would be scraped away from below until only a thin layer was left. Progress seemed slow, but in a few weeks the escape tunnel was ready.

On November 27, rain fell all day and darkness came early. At seven o'clock, each prisoner was ordered to his cell for the night. Morgan quietly went into his brother Dick's cell, while Dick went to the second-floor cell of John Hunt Morgan. Because escape from the second floor was impossible, Dick Morgan gave up his chance to escape so his higher-ranking brother could escape. It was thought that John Hunt Morgan would be of more service to the Southern Cause

The men had to wait until midnight, when the last bed check was made. Time passed slowly. At last, the footsteps of the guard echoed down the corridor as he made his last round for the night. Morgan had been lying with his back to the door so that he would not be discovered in the wrong cell. Now he got up and stomped on the thin layer of concrete covering the hole in the floor.

In the airshaft were five other Confederate men. Quickly, they scurried along the shaft, entered the tunnel, and crawled to the end. Carefully, the first man probed the dirt until it collapsed on them, opening a way to the surface. Now, they were in the open air, but they were still inside the prison walls.

In silence, they flung their homemade rope upward and felt as the grapple hook, made from a stove poker, caught. Quietly, they scaled the wall. Shifting the rope, they slid down the outside of the prison wall. To their horror, only sixty yards away blazed a bonfire with several prison guards clustered around it.

As quickly as silence would allow, the men slipped into the darkness, heading in separate directions. Morgan made for the train station. Because suspicion would be focused on travelers going north toward Canada, the usual route followed by escaping Confederates, Morgan decided to make for Cincinnati. Few people would expect Confederate escapees to make directly for the South. Morgan bought a ticket for Cincinnati.

Boarding the train, Morgan decided boldness was the best policy and took a seat beside a Union officer. A lively conversation soon led to the offer of a drink from the officer's brandy flask. As the train passed the penitentiary, the Union officer said, "That's where they've got old John Morgan." "Yes," replied Morgan, "and I hope they always guard him as well as they do now!" From Cincinnati, Morgan crossed the Ohio River into Kentucky and headed South.

There were close calls and adventures ahead, but John Morgan made it safely back to Confederate territory only to lose his life during a Union surprise attack on his command at Greenville, Tennessee, on September 4, 1864.



Oklahoma Division Reunion and Convention

Shawnee, OK – April 28, 2018



2018 Convention Group Photograph



Commander Ken Cook addressing the Convention
Lt. Commander Rex Cash is on the right.



Camp Walker Commander, Allen Harrison, speaking on
recruiting and retention





Division Adjutant and Chairman of the Rose Hill Monument Committee, Terry Pierce, reporting on issues relative to the Division's monument and Confederate graves in Rose Hill Cemetery at Ardmore – Commander Ken Cook and Lt Commander Rex Cash seated



Camp McIntosh Commander, Todd Cathey, delivering his address



Oklahoma Guardian Program Chairman, Jim Herndon, reporting on the Guardian Program



National SCV Lt. Commander, Paul Gramling, addressing the Convention





Division Commander, Ken Cook, presenting an Oklahoma Division Certificate of Appreciation to SCV Lt. Commander Paul Gramling



Color Sergeant Steve Stricklin (second from right) and members of the Oklahoma Division Color Guard

(Convention photos courtesy of Alvin Johnson and Steve Ward)



Larry Logan, Harold Tydings Award Committee Chairman, (L) and Committee member, Allen Harrison, (R) presenting the Harold Tydings Award to Oklahoma Division Past-Commander Les Tucker



Oklahoma Division Confederate monument
Rose Hill Cemetery - Ardmore





SCV National Lt. Commander Paul Gramling administers the oath of office to 2018-2020 Oklahoma Division and Brigade officers: (L. to R.) Terry Pierce, Roger Quarles Mills Brigade – Steve Ward, Ft. Washita Brigade – Jim Orebaugh, Division Commander – Steve Sanders, Cherokee Brigade – Frank Gilbert, Indian Nations/Red River Brigade – LTCMDR Gramling
Division Lt. Commander-Elect, Virgil Chain, was absent and will be sworn-in at a later date.



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